

1 we would look at and see if the broadcaster was
2 meeting most of them, if their license was going to be
3 re-upped.

4 Were they going out and talking to their
5 listeners and viewers about what kind of issues and
6 programs should be on? Were they producing local news
7 using local talent, real news where they're covering
8 community sports, city councils, political campaigns,
9 were they teeing up important issues and offering a
10 variety of view points?

11 No more. That's all gone. Done away with,
12 beginning with an FCC chairman in the 1980s who said,
13 You know what, the television is really nothing but a
14 toaster with pictures, and that's exactly how they
15 proceeded to treat it. All the public interest
16 obligations went away. You get your license now every
17 eight years, you send in a post card and by return
18 mail generally we send it back, no questions asked.
19 We don't even look usually at the public file we
20 require stations to keep.

21 So should we be surprised that things are
22 so out of whack? And let's not just blame the
23 broadcasters, blame the FCC too for being asleep at
24 the switch for many of the last 25 years.

25 (Applause.)

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1 COMMISSIONER COPPS: So we need a system of
2 license renewal that brings the bargain back to life,
3 *that enforces it by withholding licenses for those who*
4 *aren't doing their job, and ensures that the airwaves*
5 *that belong to you are actually serving you. And I*
6 *say to you, and I say to my colleagues, it should be*
7 *the top priority of the FCC to put some life back into*
8 *our public oversight responsibilities. Let's start*
9 *with licensing, and let's start now.*

10 (Applause.)

11 COMMISSIONER COPPS: You know, these issues
12 have been my top priority issues since I joined the
13 Commission about six years ago. A lot of people say,
14 Well, Copps, why do you get so wound up about these
15 issues? And I'll tell you why, I know that there are
16 a lot of critically important issues facing your
17 country and mine right now, Iraq, how do you find and
18 keep a good job, how do you make sure our families
19 have health insurance, how do we educate our kids, how
20 do we create equal opportunity and justice for all?
21 And for various members of this audience, one of those
22 issues may trump all the other issues.

23 But here's my message, even if media
24 consolidation is not your number one issue, it ought
25 to be your second most important issue, and that's

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1 because all those other issues that you care about are
2 increasingly funneled and filtered through big media,
3 if they're lucky enough to get funneled at all.

4 (Applause.)

5 COMMISSIONER COPPS: Now if you're happy,
6 if you're happy with how that important issue of yours
7 is being dealt with, you don't need to listen to me
8 anymore, but if you think that big issue might just
9 benefit a little from more diversity, more local
10 input, more coverage, more competition, you need to
11 get involved, you need to get involved big time, you
12 need to act like your future depends on it, because it
13 does.

14 Thank you for coming here and for sharing
15 your thoughts with us.

16 (Applause.)

17 COMMISSIONER COPPS: I'll quit while I'm
18 ahead.

19 CHAIRMAN MARTIN: Commissioner Adelstein.

20 COMMISSIONER ADELSTEIN: Good afternoon
21 everybody. It's great to be here. I'd like to thank
22 Reverend Jesse Jackson and Operation Push for hosting
23 us. I remember Reverend Jackson stood with us that
24 day in June in 2003 when we voted out those rules. He
25 was with us every second till those rules were

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1 stopped, and he's with us today, and we thank him for
2 his leadership.

3 (Applause.)

4 COMMISSIONER ADELSTEIN: So it's entirely
5 appropriate that we come back here to Chicagoland to
6 discuss media ownership and diversity. This area is
7 one of the most racially and ethnically diverse of any
8 in America, but the ownership of the media outlets
9 look nothing like the people they're licensed to
10 serve.

11 It's outrageous that in Chicago, with all
12 of its diversity, has the lowest proportion of
13 minority radio ownership of the nation's 22 largest
14 markets. Thank God for WVON that was here, we have
15 something.

16 (Applause.)

17 COMMISSIONER ADELSTEIN: So here we have a
18 city, roughly two thirds of the people in this city
19 are Black and Hispanic, over half are women, but they
20 collectively own just 5 or 6 percent of the TV and
21 radio stations? There's something clearly wrong with
22 this picture. With this much diversity among the
23 people of Chicago, and so little diversity in the
24 ownership of the media, it's only fitting that we hold
25 a hearing on media ownership right here.

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1 And this hearing rightly focuses on media
2 diversity and on ownership diversity. It's right in
3 the founding charter of the FCC that our job is to
4 promote the public interest, not the interest of the
5 media giants that we are said to oversee.

6 (Applause.)

7 COMMISSIONER ADELSTEIN: That charter
8 requires us to take affirmative steps to prevent
9 discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion,
10 and nationality. And it requires us to take
11 affirmative steps to promote the diversity of
12 ownership, because in America ownership is the key to
13 having your voice heard. It's not enough to simply
14 work the land in America today, it's more important to
15 own the land.

16 Now African-Americans in Chicago understand
17 the distinction all too well. Many families migrated
18 from the South to Chicago in the early decades of the
19 20th Century to escape sharecropping, poor economic
20 conditions, lynch mobs. They migrated here seeking
21 better living conditions, economic and political
22 rights. *The Chicago Defender*, the pioneer of the
23 Black press, was remarkably successful in encouraging
24 this great migration.

25 Now many of these migrants who came to

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1 Chicago started businesses, they were entrepreneurs.
2 And since then Hispanic Americans have come, and so
3 many other ethnic groups, to pursue the American dream
4 right here in Chicago. But as we all know, when it
5 comes to the ownership of the public airwaves, that
6 dream has not been realized.

7 Ownership of broadcast and radio and TV
8 stations by females and minority groups is a dream
9 deferred, a dream neglected by the FCC, the very
10 agency that is designed to protect your rights. When
11 it comes to ensuring that composition of the people
12 who use the public's airwaves to serve the American
13 people also look like the American people, the FCC's
14 legacy does not make us proud.

15 As one recognized expert on the FCC's
16 history of managing the public airwaves and minority
17 concerns has said, For three generations the FCC has
18 waged a deliberate campaign calculated specifically to
19 ensure that people of color would be barred from
20 membership in the nation's most exclusive private
21 club, the public airwaves. And he added that, It's
22 unfortunate the FCC continues with its anti-diversity
23 campaign today.

24 In a rare moment of candor before I joined
25 the FCC, the FCC itself acknowledged that as a result

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1 of our system of awarding broadcast licenses in the
2 early days, no person of color won a competitive
3 hearing until 1975. It concluded that, and I'm going
4 to quote, "The special incentives for minority
5 businesses are needed in order to compensate for a
6 very long history of official actions which deprived
7 minorities of meaningful access to the public
8 spectrum."

9 The FCC said this as a group in 1995.
10 Unfortunately, today women and people of color
11 continue to be deprived of meaningful access. The FCC
12 has not promoted policies to compensate or promote
13 diversity. An interest that the Supreme Court has
14 recognized as a compelling state interest.

15 Rather than taking regulatory steps to
16 promote diversity of ownership, in fact we've taken
17 steps specifically to undermine it. In 2003, over my
18 strong objection and that of my colleague Commissioner
19 Copps, the Commission changed ownership rules to
20 permit big companies to get even bigger.
21 Opportunities to promote small, female, and minority
22 owned businesses were cast aside.

23 In fact, the Commission actually repealed
24 the only remaining rule that we had on the books
25 specifically aimed at fostering diversity. As your

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1 own Senator Barack Obama said, an excellent statement,
2 as was Senator Durbin's, We promoted the concept of
3 consolidation over diversity.

4 The results of this consolidation is not
5 only a lack of ownership diversity, but it's also a
6 lack of programming diversity. And, again, people of
7 color are the biggest losers. We see the constant
8 stereotyping we've heard about today of African-
9 American and Latino men and women by multi-national
10 corporations. They have no real connection to the
11 needs of the community.

12 Because of the FCC's refusal to define
13 broadcasters' public interest obligations, investors
14 on Wall Street and advertisers on Madison Avenue
15 dictate the images your children see, and those images
16 define our children's dreams for the future. So pimps
17 and thugs become common fare.

18 And this is why I'm pleased that your own
19 Congressman, Bobby Rush, is holding hearings on
20 Capitol Hill about stereotypes in the media. And
21 that's why I'm pleased that our Chairman, Chairman
22 Martin, invited organizers from Enough is Enough
23 campaign to address the public about these concerns
24 here today.

25 Luckily the Federal Appellate Court

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1 reversed the FCC's 2003 order. In a stinging
2 indictment, the court said, and I'm quoting,
3 "Repealing its only regulatory provision that promoted
4 minority ownership is inconsistent with the
5 Commission's obligation to make broadcast spectrum
6 available to all people without discrimination on the
7 basis of race."

8 Can you image a court would, in this
9 century, reprimand us in that way? The FCC's decision
10 marked a sad day in a sad history of neglect of
11 minority ownership by the FCC. We now need a
12 comprehensive response to the lack of diversity in
13 programming and ownership. We need to develop
14 policies that engage minorities as owners of the
15 media, not as consumers or sharecroppers.

16 We need to turn our legacy around --

17 (Applause.)

18 COMMISSIONER ADELSTEIN: -- let's turn this
19 history around, starting right here, right now in
20 Chicago, right here at Rainbow Push and Dr. King's
21 workshop.

22 (Applause.)

23 COMMISSIONER ADELSTEIN: So today, as one
24 who believes that we should not longer shirk our
25 responsibility to the American people, I'm calling on

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1 all of my colleagues and our Chairman to join me in
2 creating a bipartisan, independent panel to review
3 more than 40 policy recommendations that were proposed
4 by the FCC's Diversity Committee and the Minority
5 Media Telecommunications Council.

6 We need to put the past behind us and
7 establish a panel of outside experts to conduct a
8 thorough review of all of these regulatory proposals,
9 the dozens of diversity enhancement recommendations
10 that have been collecting dust at the FCC as far back
11 as 1992. I think 15 years is long enough. Don't you?

12 (Applause.)

13 COMMISSIONER ADELSTEIN: As they say,
14 justice deferred is justice denied. So I hope that
15 the Chairman and my colleagues will join me in
16 creating this independent panel representing the
17 interests of all stakeholders who want broadcasters,
18 minority and female broadcasters included, investors,
19 advertisers, public interest groups, all the experts
20 to help us deliver a comprehensive answer to the
21 dearth of female and minority ownership.

22 We can't wait any longer. We need the
23 answers to these fundamental issues of justice,
24 fairness and diversity before we act on any rules to
25 further consolidate the media. It'd be wrong to make

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1 any decision about media ownership until we implement
2 policies recommended by the independent panel to
3 improve the sorry state of female and minority
4 ownership.

5 (Applause.)

6 COMMISSIONER ADELSTEIN: And as
7 Commissioner Copps said, it'd be wrong to make any
8 changes to our media ownership rules that would
9 undercut the ability of women and people of color to
10 own the airwaves and have their unique voices heard.
11 There's no need to delay. We can accomplish this
12 quickly if we start now. We need to live up to our
13 charter once and for all.

14 So thank you for coming out, and I'm ready
15 to hear from all of you. I appreciate you having us.

16 (Applause.)

17 COMMISSIONER TATE: Thank you, Mr.
18 Chairman, thank all of you all so much for being here
19 tonight, and especially to the Rainbow Push Coalition
20 for your hospitality in hosting all of us here.

21 Certainly one of my top priorities, and as
22 you've heard, required by law, is to implement
23 policies that are in the public interest. And that's
24 why these hearings that we are holding all across
25 America are so crucially important. Today and tonight

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1 we'll hear how real people in real places, you,
2 receive and utilize vital news and entertainment, and
3 even emergency information during times of crisis.

4 During our first four public hearings, we
5 learned a great deal about issues facing local
6 citizens in other cities, broadcasters, local
7 citizens, artists, songwriters, producers. Today we
8 want to hear from you, the citizens of Chicago and
9 surrounding area, especially since Chicago is the
10 third largest media market in America.

11 Chicago has always held a special place in
12 my heart, because where I grew up in Tennessee, WLS
13 was the only radio station that I could get at night.

14 Music and media have always been a part of my life
15 growing up in Nashville, Music City USA.

16 And I believe that it's even more true of
17 young people today. It's important to take into
18 consideration the views and the habits of our younger
19 generation, or as I refer to them, my children's age,
20 the I generation, those they grew up with the
21 Internet. It's the I generation that will truly be
22 impacted by the decisions that we make today.

23 This morning I spoke to a group of law
24 students at Northwestern Law School, and we'll hear
25 from one of those students in just a few minutes.

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1 While I was there, I wanted to hear how the students
2 get their news and information today. And while some
3 of the students, here and around the country when I
4 speak, continue to rely on local radio and television,
5 the most significant response might have been one that
6 I didn't even ask for, blogs.

7 From student responses, it was clear that
8 blogs represent a growing sector of America's news and
9 information sources. Today the Internet enables
10 individuals of any age to be writer, reporter, editor
11 and publisher of news. Whether in small towns or
12 major media markets, people, especially the I
13 generation, continue to have access to more and more
14 news and information outlets than ever before. Not
15 just here in Chicago, not just in the United States,
16 but from all around the world.

17 I want to thank each of our esteemed
18 panelists for being here, on both of our panels.
19 Broadcasters, economists, citizens, professors, and
20 many engaged citizens. As one of the new
21 Commissioners, I look forward to hearing from all of
22 you who have taken time to be here tonight.

23 Obviously as the only woman on the FCC, I
24 share many of your concerns about ownership, women and
25 persons of color. So I'm looking forward to

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1 especially hearing creative ideas such as WVON's lease
2 and sharing agreement that could provide yet another
3 avenue and opportunity for women and minorities.

4 Thank you, and I look forward to hearing
5 from all of you.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHAIRMAN MARTIN: Thank you, Commissioner
8 Tate.

9 Commissioner McDowell?

10 COMMISSIONER McDOWELL: Thank you, Mr.
11 Chairman. We've gone from saying good afternoon to
12 good evening. So what I'd like to do is actually hear
13 from you, the people of Chicago, on this issue, and --

14 (Applause.)

15 COMMISSIONER McDOWELL: -- I'd like to just
16 submit my statement for the record, and I won't be
17 reading it. But I do have a personal interest in the
18 Chicago media market. My mother, my late mother,
19 Martha Shea McDowell, was a pioneer. She was one of
20 the early female journalists here in Chicago, working
21 for the late, great *Chicago Daily News*, and this is in
22 the early 1950s. So I feel a kinship to the people of
23 Chicago, although I'm a native of Virginia.

24 And without further ado, I'm going to just
25 listen. So thank you all very much for coming tonight

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1 and having us.

2 (Applause.)

3 CHAIRMAN MARTIN: At this point, I'm going
4 to turn it over to our Moderator, Louis Sigalos, who's
5 the Chief of the Consumer Affairs and Outreach
6 Division of the CGB. And I should also just
7 highlight, because as we go through the -- we'll have
8 the first set of panelists and then we'll be opening
9 up for public comment.

10 Some of the Commissioners on occasion may
11 run off to the restroom, but they'll be right back.
12 So if anybody disappears, they'll be coming back, so
13 don't panic.

14 And, Louis, if you want to go on and start
15 the presentation with the panelists?

16 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you, Mr.
17 Chairman, and Commissioners.

18 As we move to our first panel discussion,
19 I'd like to review the ground rules very briefly.
20 Panelists, each of you will have five minutes on the
21 clock to make your remarks. I will be strictly
22 enforcing this time limit to leave the public as much
23 time as possible for the public comment period. We're
24 running a bit behind, so I urge you to please, please
25 honor this five minute time limit.

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1 Members of the audience, please listen
2 respectfully to the panelists, even if you disagree
3 with the views that they express. I know that the
4 issues we're discussing today arouse a lot of passion,
5 but for this hearing to run smoothly and be
6 successful, we need to maintain a basic decorum and
7 avoid unnecessary interruptions. Thank you.

8 Participating in this panel are KRS-One,
9 hip-hop MC artist. Charles --

10 (Applause.)

11 MODERATOR SIGALOS: -- Charles Benton,
12 Chairman of the Benton Foundation. Karen Bond,
13 Executive Director, National Black Coalition for Media
14 Justice.

15 (Applause.)

16 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Cynthia Canary,
17 Director, Illinois campaign for political reform.

18 (Applause.)

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: John Chadwick, Vice
20 President, General Manager, WREX-TV, NBC, Rockford,
21 Illinois.

22 (Applause.)

23 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Melody Spann Cooper,
24 General Manager, WVON-AM, Chicago, Illinois.

25 (Applause and cheers.)

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1 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Marv Dyson, Director of
2 Operations, WKKC-FM --

3 (Applause.)

4 MODERATOR SIGALOS: -- Kennedy-King
5 College, Founding Partner, Urban Radio Broadcasting
6 LLC. Tom Langmyer, Vice President and General
7 Manager, WGN Radio, Chicago, Illinois.

8 (Applause.)

9 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Dorothy Leavell,
10 Publisher/Editor, *The Chicago Crusader*.

11 (Applause.)

12 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Dennis Lyle, President
13 and CEO, Illinois Broadcasters Association.

14 (Applause.)

15 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Doug Nowakowski,
16 International Representative, International
17 Brotherhood of Teamsters.

18 (Applause.)

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Silvia Rivera, General
20 Manager, WRTE-FM, Radio Arte'.

21 (Applause.)

22 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Dana Withers,
23 President, Dana Communications Incorporated, Benton,
24 Illinois.

25 (Applause.)

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1 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Mr. KRS-One, if you'll
2 begin?

3 KRS-One: Sure. Here?

4 MODERATOR SIGALOS: You can go right there.

5 KRS-One: You know, first of all, I'd like
6 to just -- okay, I can see the clock. Thank you for
7 inviting me here. It was kind of an impromptu thing.
8 I'm on tour, I just was coming through to Chicago and
9 I heard that this was happening. And I kind of just
10 like scratched my sound check to be over here. So I'm
11 going to speak for a minute and then I'm going to run
12 and do my -- finish the rest of the tour.

13 But one thing I wanted to point out, I
14 really wish I was here to hear everyone speak at the
15 beginning, but I would like to emphasize something
16 that deals with power, powerlessness versus
17 powerfulness. Hearings are just that, hearings. We
18 are listening to ideas go back and forth. But as we
19 sit here right now, there are hundreds of recording
20 artists that can't get their record played on radio.

21 (Applause.)

22 KRS-One: Now, you know, I'm not here to
23 point any fingers, of course, but I will mention one
24 radio station while I'm here. WGCI.

25 (Applause.)

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1 KRS-One: Now 20 years ago I started
2 something called the Rap Down on WGCI, with another DJ
3 called Pink House, rest in peace.

4 (Applause.)

5 KRS-One: And I want to return to the frame
6 of power. Either we're going to sit here and we're
7 going to talk, talk, talk, talk, talk, or we're going
8 to leave this auditorium and do something of some
9 significance.

10 (Applause.)

11 KRS-One: I would like us all to get up
12 right now and go to WGCI. I'm sitting here, I'm in a
13 way honored in a way to be sitting here with all of
14 you. We may have never met on any other situation.
15 I'm here with the FCC Chairman. You have a job ahead
16 of you, no doubt. Because -- I say this because in a
17 way this is like the police force of radio. FCC,
18 Federal, Federal Communications Commission. But if
19 you have a government that is run by big business, how
20 can the FCC really get that business out of radio?
21 That's my question.

22 My question is -- with my last two
23 minutes -- is I've seen this first hand, the issue is
24 not so much ownership. That is a noble issue and we
25 should be owning more, no doubt. But what difference

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1 does it make if you own a station, if you don't,
2 whether you're Black, White, woman, whatever. If your
3 heart is not in the right place, it don't matter who
4 owns the station.

5 (Applause.)

6 KRS-One: You're going to keep pushing that
7 same nonsense. Last point. My name is KRS-One. It
8 stands for Knowledge Reigns Supreme, KRS. I do a form
9 of hip-hop called edutainment, education through
10 entertainment. Right now as we speak, I can't get my
11 record played, I'm not on the airwaves, nothing. I
12 would appeal to the FCC, please help me in this
13 situation. Help me in this situation. Our culture is
14 being criminalized by the radio stations.

15 (Applause and cheers.)

16 KRS-One: If -- I only got a minute left --
17 if we can somehow deal with the criminalization of our
18 culture, our culture's called hip-hop, we love hip-
19 hop. And we are not gangsters, we're not pimps, hos,
20 thugs. This is not who we are. (Applause.)

21 KRS-One: But this is what we're being
22 advertised as, and I think it's a public safety issue,
23 because police officers listen to the radio as well,
24 and if they're going to just keep hearing, Yo, I'm a
25 criminal, I'm a pimp, I'm a this, when I walk down the

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1 street, they're going to immediately think that's me.
2 It's a public safety issue, and I beg the FCC to help
3 us. Thank you.

4 (Applause and cheering.)

5 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

6 (Continued applause and cheering.)

7 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you, Mr. KRS-One.

8 Mr. Benton. Mr. Benton.

9 MR. BENTON: Well, that's an impossible act
10 to follow. Wonderful last minute fold in.

11 I'm Charles Benton, Chairman of the Benton
12 Foundation that was founded in 1981. We focus on
13 communications in the public interest.

14 My involvement with media policy reform
15 started way back. Nearly 40 years ago, my wife
16 Marjorie and I helped to create the Citizens Committee
17 to Save WFMT shortly after it was purchased by the
18 Tribune Company. We were concerned about keeping the
19 FM station independent in order to preserve its
20 format.

21 Ultimately, our committee fought the
22 purchase of WFMT by the Tribune on the basis of its
23 concentrated control of media in Chicago. After a
24 long struggle with the FCC and the Federal Appeals
25 Court, the Tribune finally ended up by donating the

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1 station to charity. That is why public broadcasting
2 station WTTW now owns WFMT, and this classical music
3 superstation not only survives, but thrives.

4 As we all know, and as I just illustrated,
5 the Tribune Company dominates the Chicago media
6 landscape, owning the areas most read newspaper, most
7 listened to radio station, the popular TV station, the
8 area's only 24 hour local cable news channel, the
9 Chicago Cubs, and more. Beyond the Tribune, Chicago
10 media outlets are mainly owned by other non-local
11 large conglomerates, like News Corporation, GE, CBS,
12 Clear Channel, and Bonneville International.

13 Tonight the Benton Foundation presents a
14 survey of recent research on the state of media in
15 Chicago. It's in the back of room, it's called
16 Chicago Media, Big But Not Diverse. So it's in the
17 back of the room, and on our website, the Benton
18 Foundation website.

19 Together, with the work of *Free Press*, The
20 Consumer Federation of America, the University of
21 Wisconsin's News Lab, Northwestern University's Media
22 Management Center, and Columbia College's Community
23 Media Workshop, show that, number one, ownership of
24 Chicago broadcast media does not reflect the city's
25 diversity. You've heard the statistics of the

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1 nation's 22 largest radio markets, Chicago has the
2 lowest of minority ownership.

3 Racial and ethnic minorities take up nearly
4 two thirds of the population of the Chicago, yet only
5 5 percent of Chicago's full power commercial radio and
6 television stations. Women own just 6 percent of
7 Chicago's full power commercial radio and television
8 stations, despite being over half the population.

9 Number two, Chicago media ownership is too
10 concentrated and predominantly non-local. Four firms
11 control 58 percent of the entire local news media
12 market in Chicago. Together, four companies, The
13 Tribune, Clear Channel, CBS, and Bonneville
14 International control over two thirds of the revenues
15 from radio in Chicago. Non-local owners control
16 nearly two thirds of Chicago's commercial radio
17 stations.

18 Three, there are less media outlets here
19 covering Chicago and less reporters of the outlets
20 that remain. Chicago's commercial television
21 newscasts are failing to adequately serve and
22 represent the community. In the week before the 2006
23 election, Chicago's commercial broadcast TV stations
24 devoted almost twice as much air time on average to
25 political advertising than they did to election

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1 coverage during a typical 30 minute newscast.

2 On local TV newscasts in Chicago, for every
3 one woman is heard in a story, there are two men. For
4 every one non-White person who is heard in a story,
5 there are three White people.

6 Over 45 percent of every local news program
7 here is devoted to news stories -- only 45 percent.
8 Sports and weather each take up 9 to 10 percent of
9 the time on the average, commercials take up 30
10 percent of the time.

11 Finally, in a report released today by
12 Children Now we've learned that the total hours of
13 children's broadcast TV programming is down 46 percent
14 in Chicago since 1998. Nationally, Children Now found
15 that duopoly stations owners reduce their services to
16 children substantially more than stations with one TV
17 license at a local market.

18 If the FCC is considering changes and
19 waivers to ownership rules that would allow for
20 continued and increased media consolidation, it would
21 likely further degrade the quality of news in the
22 number of minority and female owners of media outlets.

23 As mentioned today by Commissioner Adelstein, I hope
24 the FCC will create a bipartisan, independent panel to
25 review the 40 plus policy recommendations from the

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1 FCC's own Diversity Committee.

2 At various times, Chicago has been an
3 incubator for various program ideas -- and I've got to
4 cut to the quick here. At the very least, the FCC
5 needs to monitor more intently the fulfillment of it's
6 localism, diversity, and competing -- and competition
7 goals before loosening the media ownership rules, and
8 allow --

9 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you --

10 MR. BENTON: -- increased concentration of
11 media ownership in Chicago. In fact, what it should
12 do is to enforce the rules that it has had in place
13 for decades.

14 Thank you --

15 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

16 MR. BENTON: -- for your time and
17 attention.

18 (Applause.)

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you, Mr. Benton.

20 Ms. Bond.

21 MS. BOND: I'm Karen Bond, Executive
22 Director of the National Black Coalition for Media
23 Justice. To give you some perspective, the Black
24 community, as of the last census, makes up about 40
25 percent of the population of Chicago, and 26 percent

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